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## Book Reviews.

The Called of God. By the late Professor A. B. Davidson, D.D., LL.D. Edited by Professor J. A. Paterson, D.D., with Biographical Introduction by A. Taylor Innes. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902. Pp. 336.

If the interested scholar living on this side of the Atlantic Ocean, who had not come into personal contact with the late Professor Davidson, should inquire into the sources of the power of that eminent teacher, he would find that Dr. Davidson was endowed with a rare combination of talents. First of all, he was a linguist, and as such did fundamental work with his pupils by arousing enthusiasm in the tilling of the proverbially arid field of Hebrew study. In addition to this linguistic gift he had also the talent of an acute critical mind. The problems of Old Testament criticism were to him neither stumblingblocks to be avoided by the believing and reverential student of the Bible, nor Gordian knots to be cut by the sword of arbitrary conjecture. He had an acute discernment of their nature, importance, and general bearing on doctrinal beliefs. But in Dr. Davidson's constitution of mind even the critical faculty was subordinate to the constructive theological tendency. He was always ready to pass into the study of the thought and life revealed in the Bible rather than to deal with questions of criticism in and for themselves. The religion of the Bible was to him much more than its mere history and historical environment. But even thus we have not exhausted the whole of his personal equipment; for in addition he possessed the preacher's instinct of perceiving the practical spiritual adaptations of historical and theological elements, and of transforming the results of his study into homiletic materials.

The volume before us represents a selection out of his numerous sermons illustrating the point of view and method of procedure of Dr. Davidson in transforming his biblical studies into sermons. The method is one which may well be commended to students puzzled as to what use they shall make of those results of biblical study which to them appear full of interest, but which they feel the uninstructed popular audiences assembling in average churches would find dry and

unprofitable. Dr. Davidson attempts to read, beneath and behind the the facts, the forces and motives that control and mold the facts, and when he has discovered these he points out the situations in which they so often recur in contemporary life. The standards of spiritual life he thus discovers in biblical characters and situations; the applications of these standards he locates among people to whom he is preaching.

The volume is edited by Dr. Davidson's successor, Professor J. A. Paterson, and the biographical introduction prefixed by Mr. A. Taylor Innes tells in a brief but graphic sketch all that was known of Dr. Davidson's quiet, uneventful, but transcendently useful and influential life. Dr. Davidson seems to have been abnormally sensitive, even for a Scotchman, with reference to the revelation of his inner life to the public. But Mr. Innes has skilfully discovered and brought forth from Dr. Davidson's sermons many confessions of spiritual experience which enrich his biographical sketch.

Two portraits of the professor in his study complete the whole presentation of the man, and make the volume quite an adequate substitute for personal contact to those who were not privileged to meet or hear this illustrious scholar and teacher.

A. C. ZENOS.

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The Teachings of Jesus Concerning Wealth. By Rev. Gerald D. Heuver, Ph.D. Chicago: F. H. Revell Co., 1903. Pp. 208. \$1, net.

The main positions of this book may be summarized as follows: Palestine was a very fertile land, and in our Lord's time presented a civilization and conditions not very different from our own. The people were neither happy nor good. They were oppressed by the Roman and Herodian governments. No party among them — Essenes, Pharisees, or Sadducees — had the social spirit. Only a remnant among the people cared for the poor or the betterment of the general social conditions. Jesus was one of these. Luke gives us the most accurate information concerning his attitude toward social questions. Jesus was no "social agitator." He relied upon moral means alone to promote the social well-being of the people. His life teaches that the spiritual part of man receives its best development under the cramped conditions of poverty and country seclusion. He objected neither to